GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:204
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2015
Distribution of Foodgrains
Gawali (Patil) Ms. Bhavana;Nimmala Shri Kristappa

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subsidised/free foodgrains are distributed to the poor particularly to the weaker section of the society through the Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of Below Poverty Line families along with the quantum of various items allocated and actually distributed during each of the last three years and the current year, category and State-wise;

(c) whether the allocation of some States have been reduced recently, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether requests have been received from the States for restoration/additional allocation, if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto, State-wise; and

(e) whether incidents of blackmarketing/irregularities in PDS have been reported during the said period, if so, the details thereof and corrective steps taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NUMBER *204 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 04.08.2015 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): Government of India allocates foodgrains (rice and wheat) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), to States and Union Territories (UTs) for distribution to 6.52 crore accepted number of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, which includes 2.42 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families @ 35 kg per family per month at the Central Issue Price (CIP) of Rs. 3/- per kg for rice and Rs. 2/- per kg for wheat for AAY families and Rs. 5.65 per kg for rice and Rs. 4.15 per kg for wheat for BPL families.

National Food Security Act, 2013 notified on 10.09.2013 inter alia provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population of the country for receiving 5 kg. of foodgrains at subsidized prices of Rs. 3/2/1 for rice, wheat and coarse grains respectively per persons per month under TPDS. The existing AAY households will however continue to receive 35 kg. of foodgrains per households per month.

(b): The statement indicating State-wise accepted number of BPL families is at Annex-I. The allocation and offtake details in respect of BPL (including AAY) for the last three years and current year (item-wise and state-wise) are at Annex-II to V.

(c): There has been no reduction in the allocation of foodgrains to the States/UTs under TPDS.

(d): Requests have been received from the States /UTs for additional/higher allocation of foodgrains under TPDS on account of increase in population, etc. Government has enacted NFSA under which allocation of foodgrains is based on 2011 population census at highly subsidized Central Issue Prices (CIP). The States/UTs which have not implemented the Act so far are allocated foodgrains under existing TPDS which is based on 2000 population estimates and have been allocated additional foodgrains as per the statement mentioned against point (b) above.

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(e): There have been complaints about irregularities including blackmarketing, etc. in the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in some States/regions in the country. TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments wherein the operational responsibilities for implementation of TPDS within the State/UT rest with the State/UT Governments concerned. Therefore, as and when complaints are received by the Government from individuals and organizations as well as through press reports, these are referred to the State/UT Governments concerned, if required, for inquiry and appropriate action. A State/UT-wise statement indicating number of such complaints received during the last three years and

current year is at Annex −VI.

The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 notified on 31.08.2001 mandates the State / UT Governments to carry out all required action to ensure smooth functioning of TPDS. Under the said Order, the State / UT Governments are responsible for implementing TPDS and competent to take action against those indulging in malpractices in TPDS by invoking provisions of clauses 8 & 9 of the said Order. An offence committed in violation of the provisions of this Order is liable for penal action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The PDS (C) Order, 2001 has been superseded by the TPDS (C) Order, 2015 notified on 20.03.2015 in consonance with NFSA, 2013. The provisions of the PDS (C) Order, 2001 shall be effective in States/UTs which have not implemented the NFSA or are implementing it only in part. Both the Orders empower State/UT Governments to take punitive action in case of contravention of relevant provisions of these Orders. State/UT-wise details regarding action taken under clauses 8 & 9 of the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 during the last three years and current year is at Annex -VII.

Strengthening and streamlining of TPDS is a continuous endeavour. To improve functioning of TPDS, Government has been regularly issuing advisories and holding meetings, conferences, etc. wherein State/UT Governments are requested for review of lists of beneficiaries, improving the offtake of allocated foodgrains, ensuring timely availability of foodgrains at Fair price Shops (FPSs), greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels, improving the viability of FPS operations, etc. The NFSA, 2013 also contains measures for reforms in TPDS, to be undertaken progressively by the Central and State/UT Governments. These reforms inter alia include door-step delivery of foodgrains at the FPS, application of information and communication technology tools including end to end computerisation, preference to public institutions/bodies in licensing of FPSs, etc.

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